

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the first full paragraph of page 13 with the following paragraph:

All or substantially all of the antibodies in the antibody sample whose corresponding antigens are derived from *in vitro* grown microbes will bind to these antigens to form immune complexes. However, antibodies directed against antigens that are specifically expressed during the *in vivo* infectious process will remain uncomplexed since their corresponding antigens are not present in the *in vivo* *vitro* grown cells and/or cell extracts. The adsorption step can be performed by, for example, contacting the antibody sample with whole cells and/or cell extracts that are immobilized on a solid support, such as a nitrocellulose membrane. See, Brady & Daphtary, *J. Infect. Dis.* 158:965-972 (1988). Optionally, the whole cell and/or cell extract sample can be denatured before use to expose additional immunoreactive epitopes. Several successive adsorptions can be performed using the same or different adsorption methodologies.